

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of applying a concrete-based mortar to a building comprising the steps of:

mixing a concrete-based mortar, including sand, and water to form a resulting composition that hardens, wherein the sand includes grains approximately 1 millimeter in diameter and grains less than 0.5 millimeters in diameter;

applying the resulting composition to an exterior of a building to form an uneven surface;

allowing the resulting composition to harden on the building for a time sufficient to prevent reformation of the composition; and

scraping a rough trowel against the resulting composition by moving the rough trowel in a circular motion to remove an exterior portion of the resulting composition after the step of allowing the resulting composition to harden on the building for a time sufficient to prevent reformation of the composition and further to remove portions of the uneven surface that lie above the plane so

that the surface becomes even without further application of the resulting composition, wherein the surface of the composition defines a plane after the step of scraping, and wherein at least a portion of the grains approximately 1 millimeter in diameter lie along the plane and are removed by the step of scraping so that the surface includes a plurality of divots where the grains approximately 1 millimeter in diameter have been removed.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein in the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar, the sand includes approximately 5% by weight of particles having a diameter of approximately 1 mm or greater and approximately 95% by weight of particles having a diameter of approximately 0.5 mm or less.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein in the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar, the sand includes the following mixture:

<u>Diameter (mm)</u>	<u>Weight %</u>
1.0	5.4
0.5	21.1
0.25	16.0

0.125	15.1
0.063	14.2
< 0.063	28.2

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein in the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar, the sand includes the following mixture:

<u>Diameter (mm)</u>	<u>Weight %</u>
1.0	15.1
0.5	11.7
0.25	10.8
0.125	25.2
0.063	13.6
< 0.063	23.6

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein in the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar, the sand includes the following mixture:

<u>Diameter (mm)</u>	<u>Weight %</u>
2.0	0.1
1.6	5.7

1.0	17.5
0.5	17.3
0.25	9.8
0.125	8.7
0.063	3.4
< 0.063	36

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of applying the resulting composition to an exterior of a building comprises spreading the resulting composition on the exterior of the building with a trowel.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of applying the resulting composition to an exterior of a building comprises spraying the resulting composition on the exterior of the building by projection.

8. (currently amended) A method of applying a concrete-based mortar to a building comprising the steps of:

mixing a concrete-based mortar, including sand, to form a resulting composition that hardens upon application to a surface, wherein the sand includes coarse particles

approximately 1 mm in diameter, or greater, and includes fine particles approximately 0.5 mm in diameter, or less;

applying the resulting composition to a surface to form a layer of non-uniform thickness of the resulting composition on the surface;

scraping the resulting composition with a rough trowel by moving the rough trowel in a circular motion to form an even surface along a plane, wherein a portion of the coarse particles lie in the plane and wherein at least a portion of the coarse particles that lie in the plane are removed by the scraping to leave divots of matching size in the even surface; and

allowing the resulting composition to harden, after the step of applying the resulting composition and before the step of scraping the resulting composition, for a time sufficient: (a) to prevent reformation of the resulting composition; (b) to prevent uneven scraping of the resulting composition by the rough trowel; and (c) to prevent any of the resulting composition from sticking to the rough trowel.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein in the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar the sand has the following composition:

<u>Diameter (mm)</u>	<u>Weight %</u>
4.0	0-5
2.0	0-15
1.0	5-20
0.5	10-35
0.25	10-20
0.125	5-30
0.063	2-15
< 0.063	20-40

10. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of applying the resulting composition to the surface comprises applying the resulting composition with a trowel.

11. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of applying the resulting composition to the surface comprises applying the resulting composition by projection then smoothing with a trowel.

12. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein in the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar, the concrete-based mortar further includes an accelerant.

13. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein in the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar, the concrete-based mortar further includes a plastifier.

14-19. (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 8,~~ A method of applying a concrete-based mortar to a building comprising the steps of:

mixing a concrete-based mortar, including sand, to form a resulting composition that hardens upon application to a surface, wherein the sand includes coarse particles approximately 1 mm in diameter, or greater, and includes fine particles approximately 0.5 mm in diameter, or less;

applying the resulting composition to a surface;

scraping the resulting composition with a rough trowel to form an even surface along a plane, wherein a portion of

the coarse particles lie in the plane and wherein at least a portion of the coarse particles that lie in the plane are removed by the scraping to leave divots of matching size in the even surface, and wherein the step of scraping the resulting composition further comprises removing peak areas of the layer of non-uniform thickness until the layer has a uniform thickness; and

allowing the resulting composition to harden, after the step of applying the resulting composition and before the step of scraping the resulting composition, for a time sufficient: (a) to prevent reformation of the resulting composition; (b) to prevent uneven scraping of the resulting composition by the rough trowel; and (c) to prevent any of the resulting composition from sticking to the rough trowel.

21. (currently amended) A method of applying a concrete-based mortar to a building comprising the steps of:

mixing a concrete-based mortar, to form a resulting composition that hardens upon application to a surface, wherein the concrete-based mortar includes coarse particles;

applying the resulting composition to a surface in a layer having non-uniform thickness;

allowing the resulting composition to harden for a time sufficient to prevent reformation of the resulting composition; and

scraping the resulting composition with a rough trowel having a plurality of teeth extending from the rough trowel, wherein the step of scraping removes at least a portion of the resulting composition that has hardened so that the layer has uniform thickness, and wherein the method excludes an additional step of applying another layer of the resulting composition.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of scraping the resulting composition further comprises removing the coarse particles from an exterior surface of the layer having uniform thickness to leave divots in the exterior surface having dimensions approximately equal to the coarse particles.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the coarse particles have a diameter of at least approximately 1 mm.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the coarse particles have a diameter of at least approximately 2 mm.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the coarse particles have a diameter of at least approximately 4 mm.

26. (cancelled)

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of allowing the resulting composition to harden occurs before the step of scraping the resulting composition with the rough trowel.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein:

the coarse particles have a diameter of at least approximately 1 mm;

the step of scraping the resulting composition further comprises removing the coarse particles from an exterior surface of the layer having uniform thickness to leave divots in the exterior surface having dimensions approximately equal to the coarse particles;

the step of allowing the resulting composition to harden occurs before the step of scraping the resulting composition with the rough trowel; and

the method excludes an additional step of applying another layer of the resulting composition.